

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of treating a body which is contaminated with infectious prions, the method comprising:

contacting the body with a composition comprising one or more phenols and an organic sulfonate, a phenol and a soluble inorganic salt to effect a change in the three dimensional structure of the prion protein and to inactivate prions on the body, the phenol in the composition consisting solely of non-halogenated phenol the one or more phenols comprising: o-benzyl-p-chlorophenol; o-phenylphenol; 2,3-dimethylphenol; p-chloro- *m*-cresol; p-chloro-*m*-xylanol; 2,4,5-trichlorophenol; or a mixture of two or more thereof.

Claims 2-30 (Canceled)

31. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the body comprises a surface or a liquid body.

32. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the body comprises a surface of a medical, dental or pharmaceutical instrument.

33. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the body comprises the surface of equipment used in the food or beverage processing industry.

34. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the body comprises a work surface, wall, floor, ceiling, fermentation tank or fluid supply line in a hospital, industrial facility or research laboratory.

35. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the body comprises medical waste.

36. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the body comprises blood, tissue or other body waste.

37. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the body comprises a room or cage used for housing animals.

38. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the method is used to decontaminate a disinfection or sterilization system.

39. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more phenols comprise o-benzyl-p-chlorophenol, o-phenylphenol, or a mixture thereof.

40. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the organic sulfonate comprises C₁₄-C₁₈ sulfonate, sodium C₁₄-C₁₆ sulfonate, alkyl sulfonate, sodium alpha olefin sulfonate, sodium xylene sulfonate, alkylbenzene sulfonate, triethanolamine dodecylbenzene sulfonate, sodium dodecyl benzene sulfonate, calcium dodecylbenzene sulfonate, or a mixture of two or more thereof.

41. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the organic sulfonate comprises sodium C₁₄-C₁₆ sulfonate.

42. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the organic sulfonate comprises an alpha olefin sulfonate.

43. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition comprises o-benzyl-p-chlorophenol, o-phenylphenol and sodium C₁₄-C₁₆ sulfonate.

44. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition comprises 2,4,5-trichlorophenol and alpha olefin sulfonate.

45. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the phenols in the combination of phenols has a Log P_c value of at least about 2.5.

46. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition is acidic.
47. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition is alkaline.
48. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition includes water.
49. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein prior to contacting the body, the composition is in the form of a concentrate which is diluted with water to form a decontaminate solution.
50. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein prior to contacting the body the composition is in the form of a concentrate, the concentrate having a total phenol concentration in the range from about 0.1M to about 1.0M.
51. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises one or more sequestering agents, cosolvents, surfactants, corrosion inhibitors or buffering agents.
52. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises one or more soluble inorganic salts.
53. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises water, glycolic acid, dodecyl benzyne sulfonic acid and hexylene glycol.
54. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises brine.
55. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the organic sulfonate is a sodium sulfonate.

56. (New) A method of treating a body which is contaminated with infectious prions, the method comprising:

contacting the body with a composition comprising one or more phenols and a surfactant to inactivate prions on the body, the one or more phenols comprising o-benzyl-p-chlorophenol, o-phenylphenol, or a mixture thereof.

57. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the body comprises a surface or a liquid body.

58. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the body comprises a surface of a medical, dental or pharmaceutical instrument.

59. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the body comprises the surface of equipment used in the food or beverage processing industry.

60. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the body comprises a work surface, wall, floor, ceiling, fermentation tank or fluid supply line in a hospital, industrial facility or research laboratory.

61. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the body comprises medical waste.

62. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the body comprises blood, tissue or other body waste.

63. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the body comprises a room or cage used for housing animals.

64. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the method is used to decontaminate a disinfection or sterilization system.

65. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the one or more phenols further comprise an alkyl, chloro, or nitro-substituted phenol or biphenol, or a carboxylic acid thereof.

66. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the one or more phenols further comprise phenol; 2,3-dimethylphenol; 3,5-dimethoxyphenol; 2,6-dimethoxyphenol; *p*-tertiary-amylphenol; *p*-chloro-*m*-cresol; *o*-cresol; *p*-cresol; 2,2-methylenbis(*p*-chlorophenol); 3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid; *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid; caffeic acid; protocatechuic acid; *p*-nitrophenol; 3-phenolphenol; 2,3-dimethoxyphenol; thymol; 4-chloro-3-methoxyphenol; pentachlorophenol; hexachlorophene; *p*-chloro-*m*-xylanol; triclosan; 2,2-methoxy-bis(4-chloro-phenol); para-phenylphenol, or a mixture of two or more thereof.

67. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the surfactant comprises an anionic, cationic, non-ionic, or zwitterionic surfactant.

68. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the surfactant comprises an alkylaryl anionic surfactant.

69. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the surfactant comprises a C₁₄-C₁₈ sulfonate, a sulfonic acid, an ethoxylate, a sarcosinate, a sulfosuccinate, or a mixture of two or more thereof.

70. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the surfactant comprises sodium lauryl ether sulfate, triethanolamine lauryl sulfate, magnesium lauryl sulfate, a sulfosuccinate ester, ammonium lauryl sulfate, an alkyl sulfonate, sodium lauryl sulfate, a sodium alpha olefin sulfonate, an alkyl sulfate, a sulfated alcohol ethoxylate, a sulfated alkyl phenol ethoxylate, sodium xylene sulfonate, an alkylbenzene sulfonate, triethanolamine dodecylbenzene sulfonate, sodium dodecylbenzene sulfonate, calcium dodecylbenzene sulfonate, xylene sulfonic acid, dodecylbenzene sulfonic acid, an N-alkoyl sarcosinate, sodium lauroyl sarcosinate, a dialkylsulfosuccinate, an N-alkoyl sarcosine, lauroyl sarcosine, or a mixture of two or more thereof.

71. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein prior to contacting the body, the composition is in the form of a concentrate which is diluted with water to form a decontaminate solution.

72. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein prior to contacting the body the composition is in the form of a concentrate, the concentrate having a total phenol concentration in the range from about 0.1M to about 1.0M.

73. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the composition further comprises one or more sequestering agents, cosolvents, corrosion inhibitors or buffering agents.

74. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the composition further comprises one or more soluble inorganic salts.

75. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the composition further comprises brine.